

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TITLE: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR TEMPERING AND HUMIDIFYING GAS,
ESPECIALLY RESPIRATORY AIR

Preliminary Amendment: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently amended) A device to heat and humidify gas comprising:
 - a fluid reservoir ~~(11, 15, 20)~~,
 - a humidification chamber ~~(9)~~ featuring having a gas inlet and outlet for the gas,
 - a drive device ~~(19, 30)~~ to move the moving fluid through the gas, ~~characterized in that~~
~~it comprises and~~
 - a controlled heater device ~~(17)~~ for the fluid.
2. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said
humidification chamber ~~(9)~~ is a sprinkling type chamber.
3. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 2 ~~characterized in that, further~~
comprising:
 - filling material in the said humidification chamber ~~(9)~~ filling material (10) is provided
~~comprising, forming a big~~ surface.
4. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said
humidification chamber ~~(9)~~ is pressurized.

5. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that the~~, wherein said drive device is a pump (19) ~~which feeds the~~ feeding fluid from a fluid reservoir (11, 15) to the sprinkling type chamber (9) ~~and that~~, the sprinkling type chamber and the fluid supply reservoir (11, 15) ~~are~~ being connected in a circuit.

6. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that the~~, wherein said drive device is a rotating body (30) partially dipping into the fluid within the fluid reservoir (11).

7. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 6 ~~characterized in that~~, wherein the body (30) is a stack of plates connected to each other with a distance.

8. (Currently amended) A ~~procedure for the~~ process for humidification of a gas comprising the steps:

supplying of a gas from a reservoir,

~~controlled~~ controlling generation of a gas flow,

heating and humidification of a gas, and

feeding the gas to a patient; wherein

~~characterized in that the~~ humidification is ~~by means of~~ comprised sprinkling.

9. (Currently amended) A procedure according to claim 8 ~~characterized in that~~, wherein gas flow is generated before the humidification ~~takes place before the gas flow is generated~~.

10. (Currently amended) A procedure according to claim 8 ~~characterized in that~~, wherein the humidification takes place while the humidification chamber is pressurized (~~preferably at 4.5 bar~~) and at a temperature (~~preferably about 72 °C~~) which is higher than the temperature of the gas flow directed to the patient, while the respiratory gas is depressurized to the level of normal respiratory

gas preferably maximal 0.1 bar above the pressure of ambient air with a temperature of preferably 37 °C und a user-defined relative humidity of preferably 100 %.